

Serial No. 10/710,806
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Examiner: Carlos Lugo
Group Art Unit: 3676

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-5, 16-41, and 43 are pending in this application. Claims 28-40 stand rejected. Claims 2-5, 16-27, 41, and 43 stand allowed. In this paper, Applicants have canceled claims 28-40 without prejudice.

The amendments made herein add no new matter. Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 28-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,858,921 to Kuki. The rejection is traversed.

Claims 28-40 have been cancelled without prejudice. Thus, the rejection is moot as to claims 28-40. Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 28-40.

CONCLUSION

The grounds for all rejections have been removed. All of the claims remaining in the application have been allowed over the prior art of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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